

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2 and 13-31; amend Claims 1 and 3-12; and add new Claims 32-34 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~
vehicle comprising:

~~wherein~~ a plurality of cross car beams arranged on ~~[[the]]~~ a back of ~~[[the]]~~
an instrument panel in the vehicle are supported by ~~at least~~ a brace erected on the
vehicle floor, wherein

said plurality of cross car beams include an upper cross car beam of a
hollow bar having a closed section suspended between left and right front pillars and a
first lower cross car beam of a hollow bar having a closed section bent in the shape of
an L, ~~[[and]]~~

~~wherein the~~ a first part of said lower cross car beam nearer to ~~[[the]]~~ a
driver's seat is in contact with said upper cross car beam, and ~~[[the]]~~ a second part of
said lower cross car beam not in contact with said upper cross car beam ~~functions as~~
defines said brace;

a second lower cross car beam of a hollow bar having a closed section
bent in the shape of an L is arranged nearer to a front passenger seat,

a first part of said second lower cross car beam is in contact with said
upper cross car beam, and

a second part of said second lower cross car beam not in contact with said
upper cross car beam defines said brace.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a part of said upper cross car beam and the first part of said lower cross car beam in contact with each other are wholly or partly welded to each other in an axial direction on both sides along ~~[[the]]~~ a contact line therebetween.

4. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the brace for supporting said upper cross car beam is ~~arranged~~ disposed on ~~[[the]]~~ a part of the central portion ~~nearer~~ closer to the front passenger seat.

5. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1,

wherein the first part of said lower cross car beam nearer to the driver's seat and the first part of said lower cross car beam nearer the front passenger seat are symmetric with each other.

6. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein said upper cross car beam has a plurality of curved parts.

7. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein ~~the straight part of~~ said L-shaped lower cross car beam is slightly curved.

8. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein the closed section of each hollow bar constituting said upper cross car beam and said lower cross car beam is in ~~[[the]]~~ a shape selected from one of a circle, an ellipse, a square, a rectangle or another polygon.

9. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 8,

wherein a reinforcing bridge is arranged in each of said hollow bars.

10. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein the closed sections of the hollow bar of said upper cross car beam and the hollow bar of said lower cross car beam ~~[[have a]]~~ are selected from one of the same ~~[[and]]~~ shape, different shapes, same area, different areas, ~~[[and]]~~ same thickness and different thicknesses.

11. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein said upper cross car beam and said lower cross car beam are arranged in arbitrary relative positions including superposition and juxtaposition.

12. (currently amended; withdrawn) A reinforcing structure for an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein a steering shaft is mounted on said cross car beams in ~~[[the]]~~ a direction crossing said cross car beams, and

wherein said steering shaft is arranged between said upper cross car beam and said lower cross car beam.

13.-31. (cancelled)

32. (new) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein a first single piece bracket is located on a first side of the vehicle and a second single piece bracket is located on a second side of the vehicle, and the first part of the lower cross car beam in contact with the upper cross car beam and the upper cross car beam are attached to either the first or the second single piece bracket.

33. (new) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein an end portion of the upper cross car beam on a front pillar side is in contact with an end portion of the lower cross car beam on the front pillar side.

34. (new) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the upper cross car beam and the lower cross car beam nearer to the driver's seat are arranged in superposed relation with each other on an axis at a predetermined angle to a steering shaft, while the upper cross car beam and the lower cross car beam nearer to the front passenger seat are arranged in juxtaposition on an axis crossing another axis set at an angle to the steering shaft.